Housing News Update



Tom Payne

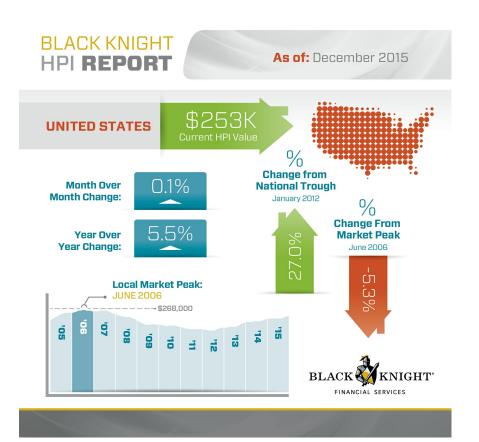
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Florida, New York post Best December Price Gains

Home prices rose 0.1 percent in December according to Black Knight Financial Services. The company's Home Price Index (HPI) ended the month at \$253,000 unchanged after rounding from the November number. The HPI was **5.5 percent higher** than in December 2014 when it stood at \$240,000.



Black Knight said its index has now risen 27 percent from the market bottom of \$200,000 in January 2012 and is only **5.3 percent below its June 2006 peak** of \$268,000.

National Average Mortgage Rates



| | Rate | Change | Points | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Mortgage News Daily | | | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.89% | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.33% | +0.01 | 0.00 | | |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 6.33% | +0.01 | 0.00 | | |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 7.05% | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| 5/1 ARM | 6.58% | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| Freddie Mac | | | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.77% | -0.09 | 0.00 | | |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.05% | -0.11 | 0.00 | | |
| Mortgage Bankers Assoc. | | | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 7.00% | -0.03 | 0.60 | | |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.63% | +0.07 | 0.61 | | |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 6.87% | -0.03 | 0.92 | | |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 7.13% | +0.02 | 0.38 | | |
| 5/1 ARM Rates as of: 7/22 | 6.22% | -0.16 | 0.60 | | |

Recent Housing Data

| | | Value | Change |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Mortgage Apps | Jul 10 | 206.1 | -0.19% |
| Building Permits | Mar | 1.46M | -3.95% |
| Housing Starts | Mar | 1.32M | -13.15% |
| New Home Sales | Mar | 693K | +4.68% |
| Pending Home Sales | Feb | 75.6 | +1.75% |
| Existing Home Sales | Feb | 3.97M | -0.75% |
| | | | |

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Value Chang

Florida and New York posted the **largest gains** among the states on a month-over-negath basis both increasing 8.0 percent. +6.25% They were followed by five states with 4 percent changes, Washington, South Dakota, Arizona, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Both New York and Texas set new price peaks in December as did eight of the 40 largest metropolitan areas, four of them in Texas.

Florida accounted for all 10 of the top-performing metropolitan areas with increases ranging from 0.9 percent in Miami to 1.4 percent in Sarasota.

Connecticut again was the **worst** performing state, down 0.7 percent from November, and Michigan was second at -0.6 percent. Three states with -0.4 percent changes rounded out the top five, Louisiana, Virginia and Wisconsin. The most poorly performing metro areas were all in Connecticut and New Jersey ranging from Ocean City and Hartford at a month-over-month loss of 0.8 to Trenton at -1.1 percent.

The Black Knight HPI utilizes repeat sales data from the nation's largest public records data set, as well as its market-leading, loan-level mortgage performance data, to produce measures of home prices available for both disclosure and non-disclosure states. Non-disclosure states do not include property sales price information as part of their publicly available county recorder data. Black Knight is able to obtain the sales price information for these states by combining and matching records across its unique data assets.

Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

After requests from real estate companies, a nonprofit consumer watchdog group the Consumer Federation of America has developed a list of factors to consider when creating a buyer contract in preparation for upcoming practice changes in the industry.

CFA released its "Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Home Buyer Contract Forms" on Tuesday. The 15 criteria focus on the contracts' form — whether the documents are readable and understandable — and content — whether they are fair to homebuyers.

- -the document's expiration date (CFA recommends buyers asks for a three-month contract and never sign one longer than six months)
- -the right to terminate the contract
- -the disclosure that compensation is negotiable
- -the broker's compensation clearly stated and that the buyer broker can't receive additional compensation for facilitating a sale
- -that any additional fees, such as for showing a home, will be deducted from the broker's commission if there is a successful sale
- -that the commission is due only if there is a successful closing
- -that buyers have an obligation for no longer than 60 days, CFA recommends to pay a broker who earlier showed them a home they purchased after the contract ended
- -seller concessions paid directly to buyers
- -dual agency not pre-approved by the contract
- -an explanation of how a broker treats different buyer clients interested in the same property
- -that buyers should not be required to first go through mediation or arbitration if they have a complaint

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